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4-H ACHIEVEMENTS IN 1933

LIST

A radio talk by Dr. C. B. Smith, Extension Service, delivered in the National 4-H Club Achievement Day program, National Farm and Home Hour, Saturday, November 4, 1933.

To the millions of you people who regularly listen in on the Farm and Home Hour, we report today on the season's work of the 925,000 rural boys and girls enrolled in the 4-H Clubs.

This 4-H club work has been developing in rural United States for over 30 years. Nearly five million boys and girls have taken part in it. It is an educational, citizenship, and character-building organization for rural boys and girls. It is characterized by boys and girls 10 to 20 years of age doing a piece of farm or home work under the guidance of trained leaders in a better way. To be members in the 4-H clubs, boys and girls must do some worth-while thing in the doing of which they themselves learn, and the individual farm or home or community likewise profits.

As you know, the boys and girls in these clubs are organized into groups of 8 to 20 that meet about once a month and talk over the work they are doing on the farm or in the home, conduct their meetings along Parliamentary lines, sing and play games together, and have a good social and educational time under the auspices of wholesome and inspiring leadership. Three hundred seventy thousand of these boys and girls are between the ages of 13 and 15, and 185,000 are 16 to 20 years old; about 30 percent of the whole group remain in club work 3 years or more. The group carried on over 50 distinct lines of work in 1933. Over 170,000 made substantial gardens that contributed to the family living; more than 90,000 grew a flock of poultry; some 200,000 were engaged in food preparation, preservation, canning, and like matters for the home; while nearly 325,000 concerned themselves with clothing design and construction. There were 60,000 boys in the corn club work; 20,000 in the cotton club work; 70,000 in pig club work; and over 40,000 boys and girls were engaged in the farm and home handicraft clubs.

This represents something of the economic, or work, side of the 4-H club program. There is a social side. The members, besides having an educational, recreational, and social program at every monthly meeting, held over 12,000 Achievement Day meetings, at which club members exhibited their products and put on various types of demonstrations before nearly two million people. In addition, they held some 2,600 club encampments of 2 to 5 days each, at which over 240,000 boys and girls were assembled for instruction in crop growing, home making, recreation, nature hikes, social amenities, and like matters. Practically every State agricultural college held a Junior Week Conference at the college, attended by 250 to 2,500 4-H boys and girls in each instance, who slept in the college dormitories, listened to lectures in college classrooms by the ablest teachers, strolled about the campuses of these institutions, and came away with minds broadened and vision lifted and a resolution in the hearts of many that some day, somewhere, they would attend such an institution and fit themselves for some of the larger tasks of the world.

This year, because of the Federal Agricultural Adjustment work with cotton, wheat, tobacco, and hogs largely absorbing the time of agricultural county agents and the home demonstration agents giving much attention to matters of relief, the 4-H clubs have not received the usual attention from Extension leaders. Volunteer local leaders, both men and women, who guide the work of each club have given

however, increasingly of their time; and the older club members themselves have come forward to give additional help and guidance. We find the older members like these challenging jobs and take them up with zest.

In Michigan, as well as in several other States, reports indicate that many of the older girls are getting into the adult women's groups and taking part as leaders in them.

At the National 4-H Club Camp, held for a week in June in Washington, the 4 boys and girls present from each of 40 States were given special training in the purposes and plans of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration. Following this meeting, many of the boys and girls went home and explained the purposes of the cotton adjustment program, or the wheat acreage control program to county, and even State-wide audiences. Polly West of South Carolina explained the cotton situation and program, to over 600 farm women and girls at Winthrop College during State Farm and Home Week, in a clear, forceful, and convincing way. Similarly, during Farmers' Week at the State college in New Hampshire, Joseph Milton explained the dairy situation and plan, winning special approval from the economists present. In Kansas, Joseph Wetta accompanied his county agent to group meetings throughout the county, explaining in detail, with the use of charts, the wheat situation and program. The thing we have learned out of all this is that we must give our older boys and girls in club work still more responsibility, still more challenging work. They like it and want more of it.

In concluding this brief report, we would have you vision an army of nearly a million rural youth, under the guidance of 60,000 voluntary adult leaders, meeting together monthly and at intervals on their work plats, striving to do the common things of the farm and home in a still better way, learning how to work and cooperate together; taking part in community affairs and sharing in community responsibilities alongside their parents and neighbors; getting instruction in a great basic industry; acquiring a deeper appreciation of nature, of good music, of health-giving and joyous recreation; learning something more of the conventionalities and courtesies of life, and acquiring a sympathetic and understanding vision of rural life. Thus these young people in 4-H club work social life, understanding, and culture will all unite in ushering in a better day for rural life.